

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 072084
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 072084

EXDIS PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR MAESTRONE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 2771 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUWAIT
CAIRO JIDDA LONDON PARIS BAGHDAD DATED MAR 31:

QTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 2771

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS KU UR
SUBJ: GOK PURCHASE OF SOVIET MISSILES

REF KUWAIT 1592

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO TRY AND INCLUDE IRAN IN
POSSIBLE APPROACH TO KUWAIT OVER GOK PURCHASE OF SOVIET
MISSILES. EVEN IF GOI INCLINED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN EFFORT,
WHICH WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT, WE SUSPECT IT WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR
NO LEVERAGE WITH KUWAIT. ONE SIGNIFICANT ATTENUATING FACTOR
IS, OF COURSE, GOI LATE NOVEMBER 1976 SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASES OF
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SOVIET ARMS, INCLUDING STRELA MISSILES. FACT THAT DEMARCHE
TARGET WOULD BE GROG (AND NOT STRELA) MISSILES WOULD NOT
CHANGE OUR EXPECTATION ABOUT PROBABILITY OF NEGATIVE RESULTS.

2. ADDITIONALLY, GOI, WITH UNCERTAINTIES SHAH HAS ABOUT
FUTURE US ARMS SALES POLICY AND HIS EXPRESSED DETERMINATION
TO ACQUIRE ARMS JUDGED NECESSARY FOR LEGITIMATE GOI DEFENSE/

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS IRRESPECTIVE OF SUPPLY SOURCE, WOULD
LIKELY PERCEIVE NO ADVANTAGE FROM WORKING AGAINST POTENTIAL
FUTURE IRANIAN SOURCE OF SUPPLY. CLEARLY IRAN DOES NOT
WISH TO SEE USSR ENLARGE ITS POSITION IN AREA, BUT IF USSR,
AS RESULT OF SALE TO KUWAIT, WERE TO UNDERTAKE MODERATING
INFLUENCE ON IRAQ THIS WOULD BE PLUS FOR IRAN. FROM THAT
STANDPOINT ONE MIGHT EVEN ARGUE THAT KUWAITI SECURITY IS
ENHANCED BY FROG ACQUISITION. POSSIBILITY OF USSR
MODERATING IRAQ AS OUTGROWTH OF SOVIET SALE TO KUWAIT PERHAPS
A PRIME GOK MOTIVATION FOR DEAL.

3. UNQUESTIONABLY FROG SALE TO KUWAIT WOULD SEEM UNWELCOME
DEVELOPMENT, BUT - IN GENERAL TERMS - IT SEEMS HARD TO ARGUE
THAT IT WILL FUEL AREA ARMS RACE SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IRAQ
ALREADY HAS FROG. NOR WOULD THAT ITSELF APPEAR TO BE
IMPEDIMENT TO ARAB-ISRAEL SETTLEMENT.

4. IN CONCLUSION, FROM WHERE WE SIT CHANCE OF SUCCESSFUL
DISSUASION APPEARS SLIM, AND WE DO NOT REALLY SEE USEFUL
IRANIAN ROLE IN SUCH EFFORT EVEN IF GOI WERE PREPARED TO
ASSIST (WHICH, AS NOTED ABOVE, WE DOUBT).

MIKLOS UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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